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Thursday, March 6 - Wednesday, March 12, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.oxfordjournal.co.uk

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BIKE SHOP GETS BACK ON TRACK

Cycle King returns after last year's horror blaze

• *Firefighters outside the shop after last year's fire*

By **Jack Johnson**

jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A CYCLE shop destroyed by fire last Easter will re-open this Saturday, just under a year after the premises was left in ruins.

Cycle King on Cowley Road has undergone a £2million makeover to bring the shop back to its former glory after a fire tore through the three-storey building on March 31, 2013.

The family-run business, which has 27 stores across the country, have had a shop in Oxford for 30 years and have been on Cowley Road since 2002.

Cycle King lost around 1,600 bikes in the fire and set up a temporary shop further along Cowley Road to keep the brand on the streets of Oxford.

Nicholas Thake, 32, retail operations director, said it was essential the shop was re-opened as soon as possible.

"The plan was to do it within a year," Mr Thake said.

• *Continued on page 3*

• *Nicholas Thake, Cycle King's retail operations director, at the revamped store*

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Surgery 'is better' for prostate cancer

AN OXFORD University research study has revealed surgery could be the better option for men with localised prostate cancer.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Led by Prasanna Sooriakumaran, from Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, the study found that surgery, as the first-line treatment, offered greater benefits for younger men in good health.

Experts are hoping the findings, published last week in the British Medical Journal, could help inform treatment choice when it comes to deciding between surgery or radiotherapy.

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Surgical treatment involves removing the prostate gland using robotic keyhole surgery, while radiotherapy gives a high dose of radiation to the prostate gland.

The research team from the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands compared data on what happened to more than 34,000 Swedish men over a 15-year period after they had been treated for prostate cancer.

Results demonstrated that men who had undergone surgery had better survival rates than those that had undergone radiotherapy.

Mr Sooriakumaran explained: "The study found that patients in what we would class as an intermediate or high-risk group who had surgery as their primary treatment had an increased survival rate.

"Benefits for surgery were also seen in low-risk prostate cancer patients but these men tended to do well whatever treatment they received.

"Further, the greatest benefits for surgery over radiotherapy were seen in younger men and those in better general health as these men were less likely to succumb to death from other causes and thus their prostate cancer became a life-threatening issue for them."

He added: "We hope this study will play an important part in informing the decision-making process of the individual patient and his doctor regarding what treatment is best for him.

"It is important that the results of this study are placed in the context of that overall discussion as to the most appropriate treatment for any given individual sufferer.

"We only looked at length of life and that in itself is only one consideration in choosing a treatment option."

Woman fights off muggers in Oxford street

A WOMAN fought off two men who tried to steal her mobile phone in Cornmarket Street last Friday.

At 5.45am on February 28, a 36-year-old woman was approached by the offenders.

They attempted to steal her mobile from her hand but after a struggle the two men were unsuccessful and left.

The two men walked away and one of them approached another man on a bicycle.

PC Paul Jones said: "There were people in the area at the time on their way to work so we are appealing for more information for anyone who may have witnessed the incident.

"Also we are keen to speak to the man on the bike that one of the offenders approached."

The first offender was a black man, with short black hair and was wearing a light chequered shirt, dark jeans and white trainers and carried a black rucksack.

The second offender was also black and was wearing dark jeans, a black shiny bomber jacket and black trainers.

If you have any information, contact 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man wins poetry competition with words about pet

• *Mark Whittaker and Missie*

AN OXFORD man has won a national poetry competition for his sentimental about his pet dog Missie.

Mark Whittaker, from Southfield Park, penned his poem as part of a Valentine's Day contest staged by dog grooming product company Butch and Bess, and fought off competition from over 500 other entries.

Missie, a Staffordshire bullterrier and Jack Russell crossbreed, was bought by Mark as a puppy four years ago, and will now enjoy the first place prize of natural dog shampoos, grooming sprays and perfumes.

"I couldn't believe the news when my poem was selected as the winner, it was completely unexpected," said Mark.

"Writing my poem was actually pretty easy, I just wrote my genuine feelings about Missie down in words, which I think is why it works so well. Life just wouldn't be the same without her. She's my best friend and is always there come rain or shine."

Jo Amit, co-founder of Butch and Bess, said: "Mark's poem was outstanding and really resonated with the dog lovers we know.

"Just like us, people have been impressed with the way Mark has captured his connection to Missie in each and every line. Our congratulations go out to him."

Honours for Brookes programme

A FUNDING programme run by Oxford Brookes University has been voted the runner-up in the Guardian University Awards' Enhancing Student Experience category.

From Passion to Action, part of the Oxford Brookes Social Entrepreneur Awards (OBSEA) programme, received the accolade at a ceremony in London last Wednesday.

The Guardian's national awards celebrate the innovation, creativity and impact of UK universities in delivering world-class teaching, research and engagement.

OBSEA programme lead Roberto Daniele said: "Enhancing student experience is at the heart of this university and being shortlisted is a wonderful endorsement of our work.

"OBSEA supports student employability through careers skills development and perhaps, most importantly, encourages staff and students to engage with their communities to bring a positive social benefit.

"Interestingly, over half of our OBSEA participants report that the support they receive on this programme is more important to them than the project funding."

Programme co-ordinator Jeff Willmore added: "We are thrilled to have been runners up against some great projects and it's a great credit to everyone involved.

"We have exciting plans for the near future and hope to take this initiative outside the university to the wider community."

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Police continue focus on fighting domestic abuse

THAMES Valley Police has been taking part in a national campaign this week that has been highlighting how they deal with domestic abuse.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Domestic Abuse: In Focus week started on Tuesday and is running until Saturday, and forces across the country have been explaining their role in protecting victims of abuse and highlighting the work of partner agencies.

It aims to encourage more people living with domestic abuse to come forward, with statistics saying one in four women and one in six men are affected by it at some point in their life.

As part of the week, Thames Valley Police are hosting a 'Tweetathon' today.

The force will be posting about domestic abuse incidents on their Twitter page until 7pm this evening.

This will include reports of incidents being made to the control room, as well as the work being done by the force to support victims.

Det Insp Ivan Reaney said: "Domestic abuse is a major issue in our society, with more than one in four women and more than one in six men experiencing this type of abuse.

"Domestic abuse also has a significant impact on children who witness it in the family home.

"For a variety of reasons, many victims do not report domestic incidents.

"Thames Valley Police and our partners want to protect victims from abuse, and we would actively encourage victims to come forward to receive the support they need."

A new scheme is also being implemented nationally to allow the disclosure of information about an individual's history of domestic violence offending.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as Clare's Law, gives a person the opportunity to find out whether their partner has a history of domestic violence.

It comes following the case of Clare Wood, who was murdered by her former partner in Greater Manchester in 2009.

If checks show that a person has a record of violent behaviour, or if there is believed to be a danger of domestic violence, police can act by sharing the information with the person they believe to be at risk.

More information will be posted on the force's Twitter account, which you can follow on @ThamesVP during the week.

Re-opening for bike store after huge blaze reduced it to ruins

• *Most of the shop's stock was destroyed in the fire*

• *From front page*

"We knew it was a tough timescale and schedule but this is our flagship store so it was imperative that we did it as quick as possible.

"We have been here for 30 years so it was imperative that we had to stay on the Cowley Road.

"We managed to secure that store (the temporary shop) three or four weeks after the fire.

"I remember on the day of the fire trawling through the property papers to see what was out there.

"With it being 300 yards up the road that has helped us."

Mr Thake recalled being "shocked" at the news of the fire and renovating the store brought back memories of when Cycle King first moved to Cowley Road 12 years ago.

He added: "I took a phone call from the branch manager saying the shop was on fire.

"I didn't believe him until I saw it on the Internet. This is our flagship store and it was a big shock for us.

Mr Thake continued: "Twelve years ago it was a brand new shop, like it is now, and I was personally involved with that.

"It was hard to see all that hard work gone. We are very well established in the Cowley Road.

"It was a full rebuild 12 years ago, it's brilliant to see it now, but I had flashbacks of that."

Cycle King re-opens on Saturday at 9am.

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News Bites

Stay informed on social care

OXFORDSHIRE County Council has launched a directory of information about adult social care services to support people and their loved ones in finding help and care.

The Oxfordshire Support Finder 2014 details services across the county, including advice about living at home and keeping people safe.

Cllr Judith Heathcoat said: "When choosing care people should be armed with the most up-to-date information to help them decide which kind of care is most suitable."

The great estate

OXFORD City Council's Great Estates project has launched its fourth parking scheme in the city, with 13 bays being allocated in Redmoor Close, Littlemore.

The scheme focuses on the improvement of parking spaces across Oxford, with five projects being approved for this financial year at a cost of £500,000.

Cllr Scott Seamons said: "We are committed to continue to deliver new parking spaces on our estates to solve long-standing parking problems and improve the external environment in these areas."

School places

MORE than 90 per cent of children in Oxfordshire have been offered a place at their first preference school, after offers were sent out to parents on Monday.

Around 6,200 applications were made to the county council, with over 5,600 children getting into their chosen school.

This is a slight drop from the 92.7 per cent who got into their preferred school last year, when there were 5,870 applications made to the council.

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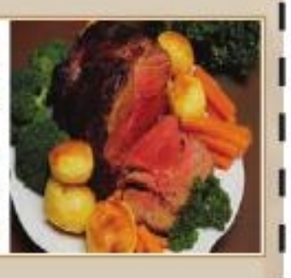
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Animal welfare professor nets Sir Patrick Moore award

AN OXFORD University professor was one of the winners of the new Sir Patrick Moore Award, presented by the RSPCA.

Professor Marian Dawkins, who heads the Animal Behaviour Research Group at the university, was honoured for her study into how good animal welfare can benefit humans.

"My work involves research on animal welfare and working with farmers towards high welfare farming that enables farmers to make a living," said Professor Dawkins.

"For me, winning this award means that animal welfare is now accepted as a scientific discipline."

Dr James Yeates, the RSPCA's chief veterinary officer, said: "Marian has a long standing relationship with the RSPCA, which started in the 1970s when it funded new research into living environments of animals.

"This form of research is now standard practice within welfare research and something that helps inform development of the RSPCA's welfare standards across many species."

Channel 5 newsreader Emma Crosby presented the awards, and she said: "Professor Dawkins' research has helped provide evidence to persuade people that animals have feelings which need to be respected.

"This new award highlights the high value placed by the RSPCA on developments in and application of animal welfare research science."

New flood defences 'vital'

A FORUM held in Oxford last week has sent out a clear message that investment in flood schemes is vital for the future.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Around 150 people attended the Members Flooding Forum at King's Centre, Osney Mead, organised by the county council last Saturday.

It was held in response to the floods suffered in Oxfordshire during the wettest January since records began in 1767.

Representatives from parishes and community resilience groups attended the forum, as well as the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The forum heard nearly a third of parish councils have community emergency plans in place or are developing them. Meanwhile, the county council is encouraging 317 parishes in the county to follow their lead.

County councillor Rodney Rose, lead member for flooding, said: "I would urge any parish at risk of flooding to develop an emergency plan, and the county council is willing and able to give them the support they need.

"However, there is only so much communities can do and Oxfordshire needs major investment to improve its flood defences and prevent the impact we have seen on homes and businesses this year.

"That's why Oxfordshire needs local and national investment in major flood schemes for the future."

Last month, MPs Nicola Blackwood and Andrew Smith, along with Cllr Rose and city council leader Bob Price, visited Downing Street to call on the government to back a Western Conveyance Channel.

This would see water diverted around the city, assisting in the prevention of flooding.

Throughout January and February this year, 168 homes were flooded across three events with the fire service responding to 150 flood-related incidents.

Barry Russell, operations manager for the Environment Agency's west Thames area, added: "The Environment Agency believes there is a strong business case for the Western Conveyance that would take water round Oxford and improve the city's flood defences.

"The important thing is that all the local partners come together to back the proposal at the flooding summit and show that they are willing and able to make a financial contribution.

An Oxfordshire Flooding Summit is set to take place on March 21.

• Cllr Rodney Rose visited the flooded Bablockhythe Holiday Park, near Farmoor, in January

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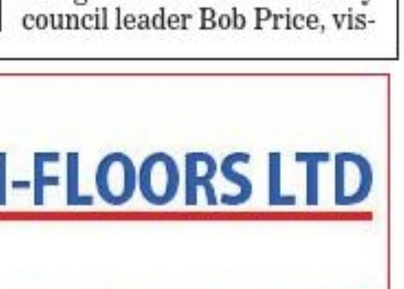

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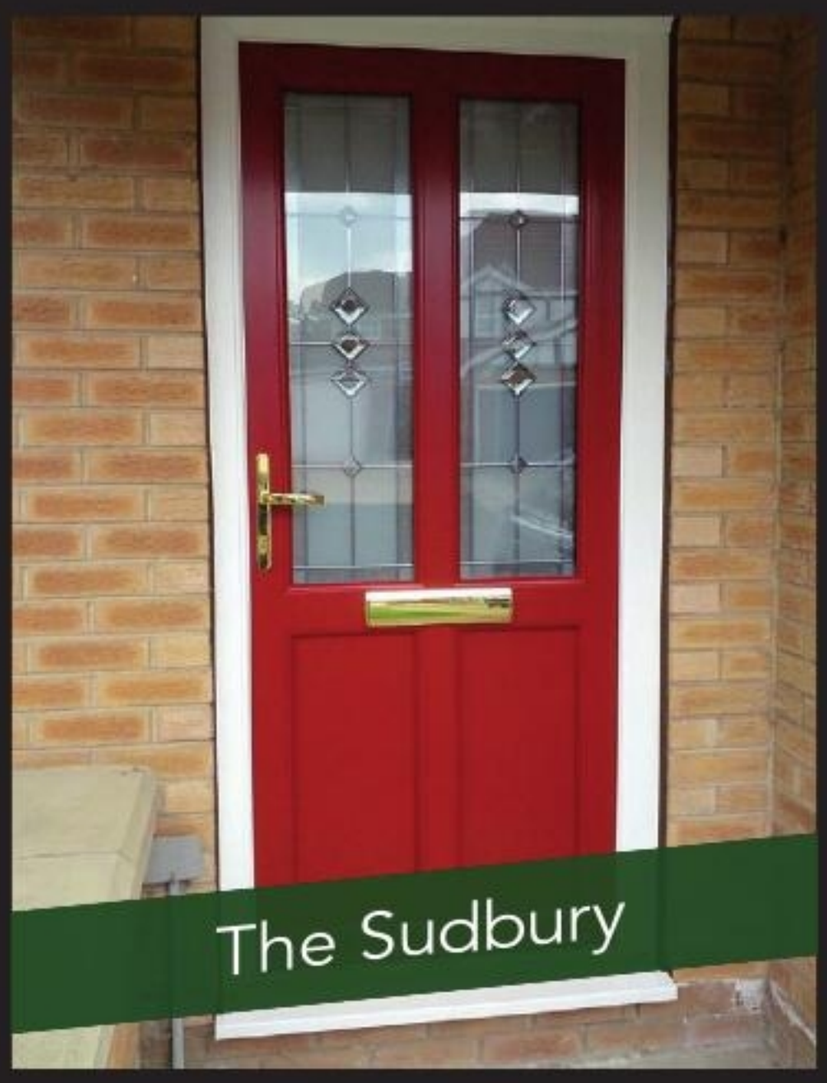
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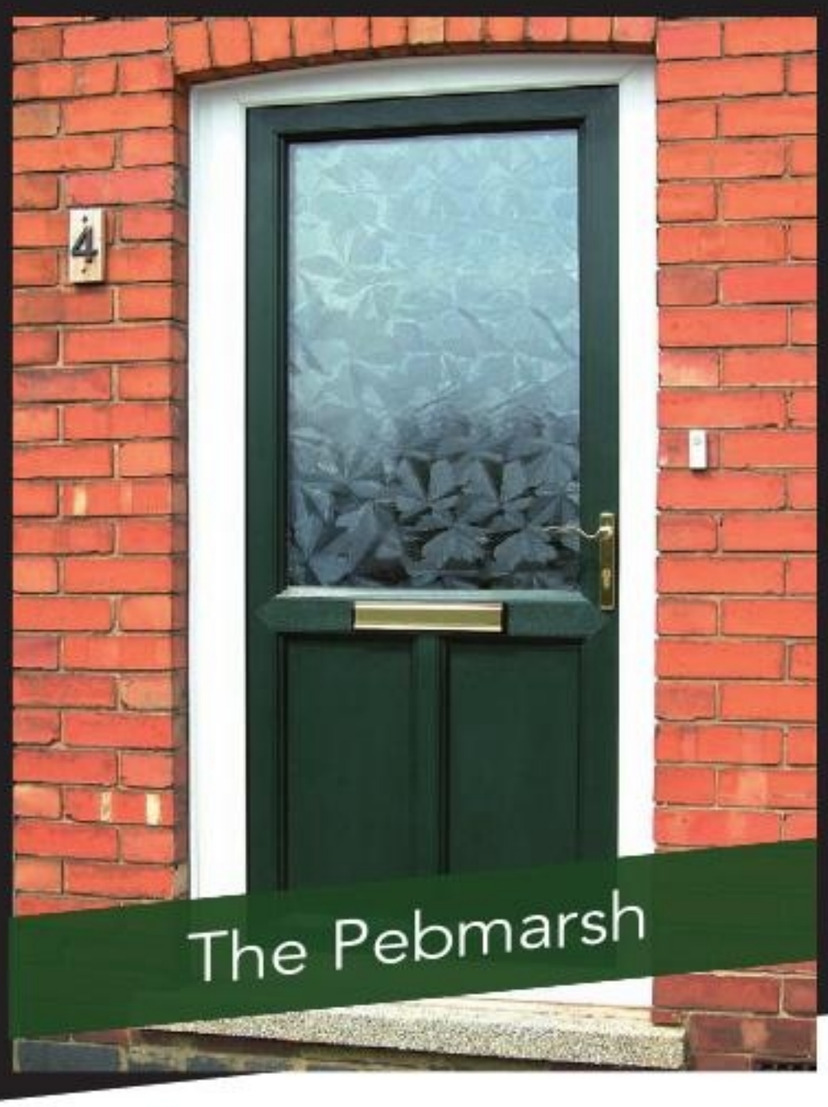
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Keep an eye out for fraudsters

POLICE are urging residents to be vigilant against courier fraud, after a 70-year-old man was duped into giving away his bank card and pin number.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Last Tuesday, the man received a phone call asking whether he had conducted any transactions in London, and asked to call the number on the back of his card.

He was then transferred to someone claiming to be from the Metropolitan Police Fraud Investigation Unit, who obtained the victim's card details and pin number.

He was then told to put his card in an envelope to be handed over to a courier, as he believed it was needed urgently by the forensic team.

Investigating Officer DC Darren Little, at St Aldate's police station, said: "I would like to speak to anyone who may have any information about the incident to contact the police.

"If you have also been a victim and not reported it yet, or had someone attempt the same or similar scam on you, then also get in touch.

"In this case the victim had £3,000 stolen from his bank account, so it is vital people make themselves aware of the scam and how to prevent themselves becoming a victim.

"I would like to advise that if you receive a suspicious call of this nature requesting that you contact a third party, then use a different phone to ensure the line is clear and the fraudsters aren't keeping the line open."

Courier fraud relates to when a fraudster calls the victim on their landline, and attempt to divulge personal information including pin numbers.

Some of the most common scams include someone claiming to be police, the victim's bank card had developed a fault and needs replacing, or assistance is required in catching a corrupt bank employee.

The fraudster will then arrange for an innocent courier to collect the bank card and deliver it to a prearranged location, at which time they can use it to withdraw cash.

Police are reminding people that they and banks will never ask for bank cards and pin numbers, and if someone receives one of these calls then they should end it immediately.

Anyone with information about courier fraud should call police on 101.

News Bites

Duo's court date

A 27-YEAR-OLD man from Blackbird Leys has been charged with a number of offences relating to aggravated burglary, robbery, attempted robbery and possession of a blade.

The man, from Shepherds Hill, was charged along with a 34-year-old man of no fixed abode for the burglary of properties in Garsington and Chiselhampton Hill.

He was also charged separately for the other offences, which relate to incidents in Barns Road, Cowley, on February 10, as well as Ashhurst Way, Rose Hill, on February 23.

Both men appeared at Banbury Magistrates' Court last week, and have been remanded to appear at Oxford Crown Court tomorrow.

No-one harmed

FIRE crews were called to a house in Blackbird Leys last Thursday morning, after a fire developed on the ground and first floors.

It broke out at a house in Kestrel Crescent at 11.30am.

No one was believed to be injured.

Watch manager Will McPhail said: "The fact that the occupants had their doors closed at the time of the fire minimised the damage to the property, and contained the fire to the room of origin and the bedroom above."

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact **Jack Johnson** on **01235 516932** or jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Partying hard for kids' hospital

A PARTY held by residents of a village near Bicester have raised £250 for Oxford Children's Hospital's Fund for Children charity.

Money collected at the 'Get to know your neighbours' party in Chesterton, as well as a donation from housebuilders David Wilson Homes, will be put towards medical equipment at the hospital.

Penny Hambridge, of Fund for Children, said: "We are very grateful to David Wilson Homes for the support they have shown to Oxford Children's Hospital, it is so appreciated.

"Charitable donations enable us to provide equipment and facilities beyond what the NHS alone can fund."

Christine Barnes from Chesterton said: "We held the party and had a raffle, with all proceeds going to the hospital.

"The party was a great success and with a donation from David Wilson Homes too, we raised £250."

Steve Barton, senior sales manager for David Wilson Homes, added: "We were approached by residents who were keen for us to help them with raising a sum of money for the Fund for Children charity.

"We had no hesitation in helping in any way we could and to also donate something ourselves."

• ***(From left) Christine Barnes, Tracey Richardson of David Wilson Homes, and Penny Hambridge***

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News Bites

Bookies charge

A 23-YEAR-OLD man has been charged in connection with a robbery at the Ladbrokes bookmakers in Iffley Road, Oxford, that took place last month.

The man, from Carterton, was arrested on Friday and charged the following day.

He was remanded in custody and appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Man released

A CARTERTON man who was arrested in relation to the murder of Oxford teenager Connor Tremble has been released, with no further action being taken.

The man, 21, was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to murder last Thursday, was released without charge later the same day.

Officers are continuing to investigate Connor's death.

Dancing show

THE former home of the Museum of Oxford will showcase a Dancin' Oxford event this week.

Paulette Mae will perform her solo show, 'Sea Me', today and tomorrow with doors opening at 7.30pm and tickets costing £3.

The new venue for dance and theatre events is part of a three year programme supporting the fundraising for the conversion of the old museum space.

E-cig backing

SOUTH East MEP Catherine Bearder has backed new European Union rules that will see electronic cigarettes sold as freely as tobacco.

The EU has overruled the government's proposals to classify e-cigs as medicines, insisting they should be regarded as a consumer product if they contain 20mg/l or less of nicotine.

E-cig manufacturers will have to ensure refillable nicotine fluid containers are childproof and that spillage can be prevented.

Ms Bearder understands that the decision will not be popular with everyone.

"This is a compromise that won't please everyone, but it's a huge improvement on the alternative of an e-cig ban that was threatened in some countries," she said.

'Boris Bikes' set to return

• *Cllr David Nimmo Smith at the OxonBike launch event last summer (Picture by Jack Johnson)*

OXFORD'S answer to London's Boris Bikes is set to return to the city in April.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Surrey-based HourBike has signed a contract with Oxfordshire County Council to run the OxonBike scheme.

The county council has been looking for a new operator since November last year.

Previous operator Grand Scheme Bike Share Ltd went into liquidation after the scheme was launched last summer.

When it is relaunched next month, OxonBike will go back to operating in the Headington area.

Cllr David Nimmo Smith, cabinet member for transport, said: "I am delighted to hear that HourBike will be getting the bikes back on the road in time for the summer.

"More than 500 people signed up to OxonBike last year and we are certain that they will get back in the saddle from April.

"Commuters who use Thornhill park and ride and who travel in and around Headington to places like the university and hospital are certain to be pleased to hear OxonBike will return."

Hire charges for the bikes will remain the same with the first half an hour free of charge.

OxonBike was launched in July last year with a 30-bike pilot project, linking Thornhill Park and Ride with major employers in the area.

The bikes were initially located at Thornhill Park and Ride, the John Radcliffe Hospital, London Road, Oxford Brookes' Gypsy Lane site, University of Oxford Old Road campus, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Churchill Hospital.

Fully funded by the government via the Local Sustainable Transport fund, the £150,000 scheme is set to continue until March 2015.

Tim Caswell, CEO of HourBike, said: "I am delighted that we have been given the opportunity to get involved in Oxford and help give commuters in the Headington area another way to get around.

"April will be an exciting time as we relaunch the scheme and look forward to welcoming back OxonBike users old and new."

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EU backing for Oxford-based research into social inclusion

OXFORD-BASED Said Business School has begun a €2.4million four-year project on social innovation, funded by the EU Commission.

Entitled 'Creating Economic Space for Social Innovations', the school will lead a group of eight partners from across Europe to study how to enhance the lives of disempowered citizens in society.

The aim of the project is to research what types of social innovation are successful in terms of addressing social inclusion and reducing inequality.

Dr Alex Nicholls, project leader and professor of social entrepreneurship at the school's Skoll Centre, believes this work may mean poorer people don't feel excluded from economic growth.

He said: "After the financial crisis of 2008, levels of economic and social exclusion have been growing even as economies have recovered.

"It is a pressing concern that the poor are excluded from benefiting from this economic growth across the EU as a whole.

"Oxford and its academic partners bring particular expertise in looking at the structure of innovation in a novel way and in examining how policy makers interact and shape markets.

"We aim to change policy makers' understanding and actions at both EU and country level and, thereby, positively impact the sustainable advancement of ignored and marginalised citizens."

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The life and times of Ruthie Henshall

• *Ruthie Henshall brings her personal show to Didcot's Cornerstone Theatre.* *See page 12 for the full story.*

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Scientists set for Oxford appearance

AMERICAN band 'We are Scientists' are embarking on a UK tour this month, performing at the O2 Academy in Oxford this evening.

The New Yorkers will soon be releasing a five-track EP entitled 'Business Casual' after the success of their debut album 'With Love and Squalor' in 2005.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £15.

Relationships through dance

BODY Politic will present an evening of inclusive dance at the Pegasus Theatre on Monday evening (7.30pm).

Javier de Frutos' Two for C will depict a couple trapped in a stagnant relationship.

Meanwhile, Oxford based charity the Parasol project will perform alongside Candoco for the curtain raiser.

Tickets cost £10, and to book your place, call 01865 812150.

Ruthie gets intimate in show about her life

SINGER, dancer and actress Ruthie Henshall gives a personal account of her life and career in her latest tour, coming to Didcot's Cornerstone theatre on Saturday.

Ruthie has been performing since the late 1980s, appearing in numerous musicals that have included 'Les Miserables', 'Chicago' and her personal favourite 'Crazy For You'.

Last year she released her new album 'I've Loved These Days', singing a broad range of genres that will also feature in Saturday's show.

"I take a walk through my life and career with songs that lyrically mean something to me, along with stories from backstage and people I've met and worked with," said Ruthie.

"It's a real close look at the business as well, and things that the audience don't normally get to hear about. A lot of fun!"

Joining Ruthie on tour is her band, made up of musical director Paul Schofield on piano, Lewis Andrews on guitar and bass, and Stephen Maclachlan on drums.

They will perform a mix of songs during the show, and Ruthie said the reaction from audiences to her album had been "really good".

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But it was through dancing that Ruthie's showbusiness career began, as she began ballet as a child.

She said: "I was doing ballet for the longest time, and that's how I started.

"I really fell in love with dancing, and then started to find my voice about the age of 11.

"I fell in love with all the MGM musicals and that's really what guided me the way I wanted to go, and I just loved all that they were, the stories and fantasies that you can take people into."

An Intimate Evening with Ruthie Henshall starts at 8pm. For booking details, go to www.cornerstone-arts.org or call 01235 515144.

• *Ruthie Henshall tells the story of her career at Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday*

Kiss Me Figaro

THE Wallingford Corn Exchange is host to a tale of romance this Saturday.

'Kiss Me Figaro' tells the story of a handsome tenor who wants to win back a soprano diva after ditching her at the altar.

Featuring classic numbers by Puccini, Mozart and Brahms, 'Kiss Me Figaro' is said to offer an evening of love, laughter and amazing music.

For tickets call 01491 825000.

Tony Stockwell

TV psychic Tony Stockwell will be demonstrating that those who have passed on can still communicate with their loved ones when he visits the Mill Arts Centre on Monday.

Tony is well known for appearing on Street Psychic, Psychic Private Eyes and Psychic Academy.

His evening of mediumship starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £18.50.

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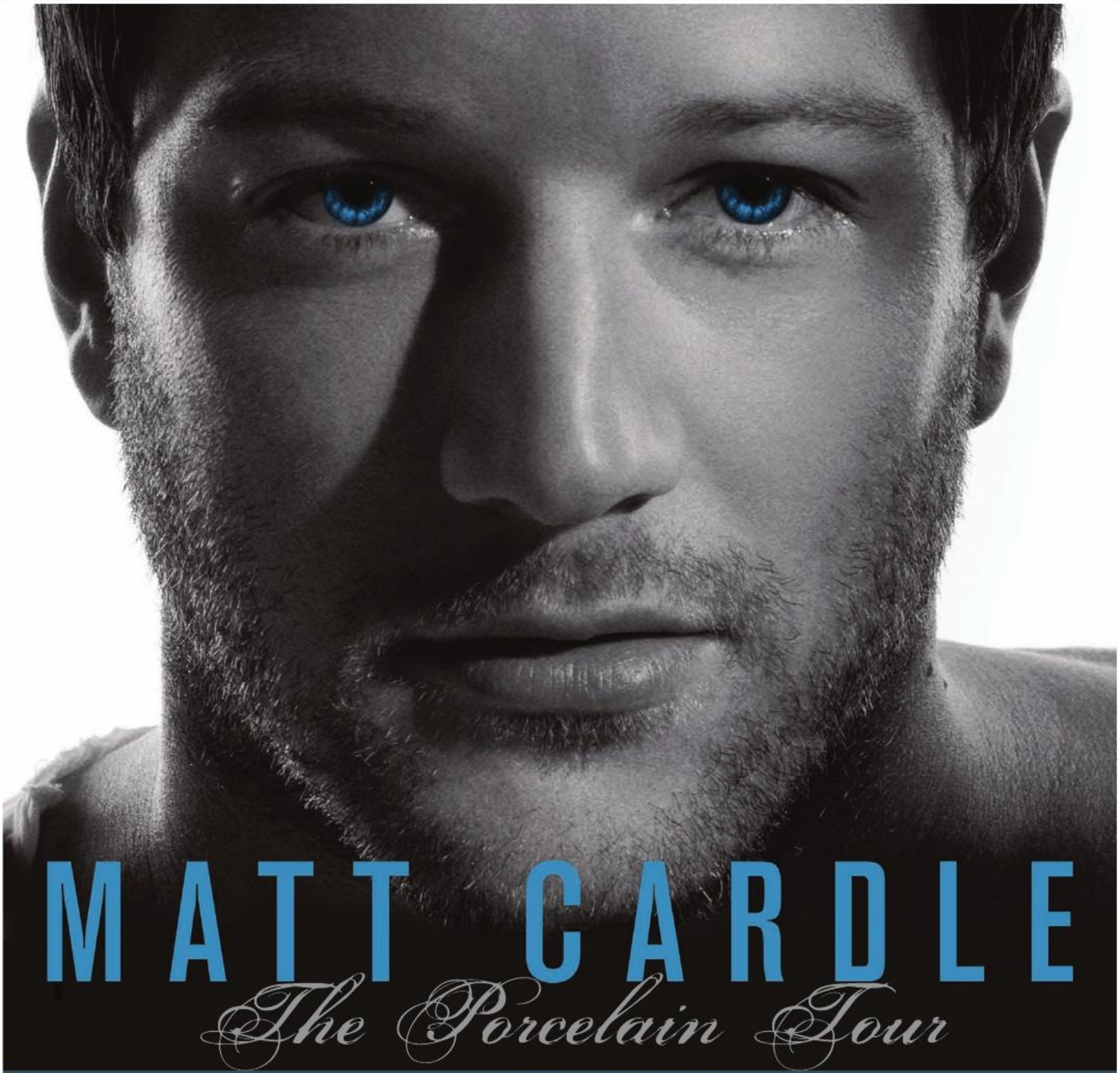

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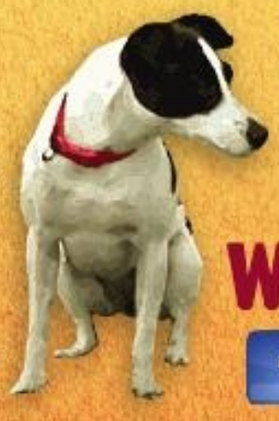

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Dance show to get under people's skin

SUBATHRA Subramaniam captures the unspoken practices of the operating theatre as 'Under My Skin' comes to the North Wall Arts Centre this Saturday.

Through the medium of dance, the audience will be invited to share a rare insight into the world of surgery.

'Under My Skin' is the third work from Sadhana Dance and features third year undergraduates from Buckinghamshire New University.

Tickets cost £13 and the show starts at 8pm.

Capturing the imagination

BAWREN Tavaziva is celebrating ten years of unique dance making with a special performance at the Pegasus Theatre tomorrow and on Saturday (8pm).

'Tavaziva Ten' will see dancers perform 10 short pieces depicting the extraordinary story of one man's imagination.

Tickets cost £12, and to book a seat, call 01865 812150.

Handling the pressure

LEGENDARY ska group The Selecter come to Oxford's O2 Academy on Sunday, as they celebrate the 35th anniversary of their debut album 'Too Much Pressure'.

To honour the milestone, lead singer Pauline Black and the band will be performing the album in its entirety, as well as a mix of other favourites from their extensive back catalogue.

The group reformed in 2010, and have recorded the two albums 'Made in Britain' and 'String Theory' since then.

Pauline said: "We'll do the 'Too Much Pressure' album in its entirety, and then an extended encore of material from our second album 'Celebrate the Bullet' and the two new albums.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"The Selecter likes to do everything in reverse, so when we got back together in 2010 instead of doing 'Too Much Pressure', we put out two new albums instead.

"But we thought 'we've had our 35th year, maybe let's look back now rather than forward', and it just seemed like a really good opportunity to go back and revisit the debut album."

And the band are already planning new material to come out in 2015.

"It's always exciting," Pauline added. "I love albums coming together and we've got a year now to really think about it and get to grips with the material. We had a really great reaction with 'String Theory'. I think people actually respect the band for putting out new music. We did 80 shows last year, and I don't think that would have happened unless we'd made ourselves credible, and a band that was more than just one album, as it were."

Call 0844 477 2000 or go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk.

• ***Pauline Black and The Selecter come to Oxford on Sunday evening***

Talawa in town

TALAWA Theatre Company and The National Theatre bring 'Moon on a Rainbow Shawl' to the Oxford Playhouse throughout next week.

Errol John's play, set in the Port of Spain, tells the story of Ephraim, who wants to escape his dead-end job for a fresh start in England.

Shows run from March 11 to 15 with tickets ranging from £11 to £24.

For more information and show times, visit www.oxfordplayhouse.com.

Seven brides

OXFORD'S New Theatre stages the critically acclaimed 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' next week (March 10-15).

It tells the story of Adam, who goes to town to get a wife. She discovers her new fiancé lives with his six brothers who all want wives of their own.

Adam, therefore, develops an inspired solution - kidnap the women they want!

Tickets range from £12.90 to £38.90. Visit www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020 for more information.

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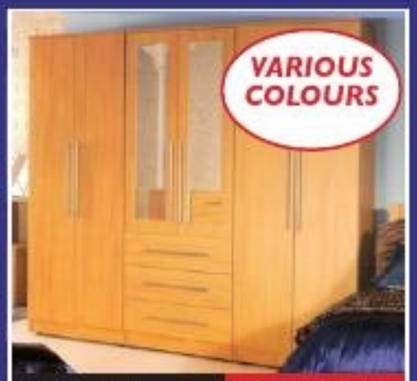

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University of Oxford student company Screw the Looking Glass, whose previous production Another Country was a Playhouse hit, presents this epic fable of comedy and adventure. Brecht's satirical masterpiece explores the far-reaching consequences of the smallest moral choices, pitting individual integrity against corruption and injustice.
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A playground altercation between two young boys brings their parents together in an attempt to resolve the matter.
The evening progresses. The alcohol flows. Tensions emerge and finally the gloves come off in this brutally entertaining, 2009 Tony Award winning play. This play contains strong language TICKETS £8 / £9
01295 279002 / www.themillartscentre.co.uk

5 March - 16 March
various locations around Oxford
OXFORD INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL
Around 30 exciting events are happening across 10 days in various locations around Oxford and the wider county.
A very special line-up of activities is taking place to mark this milestone year, with the theme of 'Changes for Women, Women Making Changes'.
www.oxfordinternationalwomensfestival.co.uk

7 March, 8pm - 9:30pm
Merton College Chapel, Oxford
HOW DESOLATE LIES THE CITY - HILARY TERM CONCERT
A concert of Lenten choral music by Brahms, Bach, Mauersberger and Verdi, concluding with Pizzetti's Requiem.
schola.ticketsource.co.uk/

7 March
at Didcot Football Club
CLUB RIO THE VENUE FOR OVER 30'S
entry £5
07789428795 www.rio-limo.co.uk

8 March, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
FITZWILLIAM QUARTET
A wonderfully rich programme from the renowned Fitzwilliam Quartet.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

9 March, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - ROBERT WOLFE
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

9 March, 1pm - 3pm
St Gregory the Great School, Cricket Road, Oxford OX4 3DR
OXFORD NCT NEARLY NEW SALE
Sale of 1000s of good quality nearly new items including clothes, toys, books and equipment for babies and small children.
From 1pm to 3pm (doors open 12.45 for NCT members/heavily pregnant women). All welcome.
More details including how to register as a seller visit: www.nct.org.uk/branches/oxford/oxford-nct-nearly-new-sales
or email nearlynewsale.oxford@nct.org.uk www.nct.org.uk/branches/oxford/oxford-nct-nearly-new-sales

9 March
O2 Academy Oxford
THE SELECTER
0844 477 2000

9 March, 7:30pm
Holywell Music Room
MARGARITA AND THE HOUSE OF LOVE
This is the last chance in Oxford to see this brilliant, witty, passionate, dark and light tale of an old house in Seville, and those who have lived there. Fabulous music-making, innovative approach to the music of Granados, Lorca, de Falla, Rodrigo and much more. Stunning music and lustrous storytelling. Script from writer Nicola Harrison, starring the amazing Oxford-based ensemble Casa Margarita (Guy Newbury, Keith Fairbairn, Gerald Garcia, Olivier Bonnici, Oliver Westlake (narrator)) and the dramatic and yearning voice of mezzo-soprano Margarita!
www.casa-margarita.co.uk/ www.casa-margarita.co.uk/

10 March, 8pm - 11pm
The Haven Club @ the Art Bar, Oxford
DAVE ARCARI LIVE CONCERT
SCOTTISH troubadour DAVE ARCARI plays show at The Haven Club (at the Art Bar –previously the Bullingdon Arms), Cowley Road, Oxford on Monday 10 March as part of a 14-date UK tour to promote his latest album Whisky in my Blood. Arcari whose 2013 debut US tour was a resounding success (and sees him return to the States later this year) – and has just returned from a series of dates in Finland which got 2014 off to a good start. He is particularly excited about Whisky in my Blood: The label (Blue North, Finland) put the album out on heavy coloured vinyl as well as CD and digital download, says Arcari. And although this is my fifth album, the vinyl release makes it feel like my first 'proper' record!
Arcari is currently working on material for his next album scheduled for release later in 2014 on French label, Dixiefrog which released his 2012 album Nobody's Fool.
Arcari has shared the stage with major artists including country/Americana legend Steve Earle, the mighty Alabama 3, Seasick Steve, Toby Keith and veteran blues-rocker Robin Trower.
A regular at UK and European festivals, Arcari cites recent highlights as Glastonbury; Moulin Blues Festival in Holland; Belgium's Peer Festival (alongside Jeff Beck, Joe Bonamassa and Steve Winwood); BluesAlive in the Czech Republic and Poland.
Headline shows in the USA and mainland Europe as well as across the UK continue to take Arcari and his music to a wider audience beyond the confines of any specific genre.
01360 970248 / www.davearcari.com

11 March - 15 March
Oxford Playhouse
MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL
Talawa Theatre Company and the National Theatre bring Errol John's seminal play to Oxford, following a critically acclaimed London run.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

13 March, 8pm
The North Wall, Oxford
THE ADVENTURES OF ALVIN SPUTNIK: DEEP SEA EXPLORER
Seas have risen, billions have died. Alvin Sputnik must venture to the bottom of the ocean to save humanity. Direct from sell-out seasons in New York, Sydney, and Auckland, this piece uses projection, puppetry and live music to tell a micro-epic about enduring love and the end of the world.
www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

13 March, 7:45pm
Sparsholt, Near Wantage
'BOOKS AT THE BARN'
with Ed Stourton
www.wantagebetjeman.com/books-at-the-barn

15 March, 8pm - 11:45pm
The Art Bar
JOHN BRAMWELL SOLO TOUR
John Bramwell, singer-songwriter and frontman of Manchester's Iam Kloot, has announced details of a brand new solo tour kicking off in January 2014.
Iam Kloot have been performing since 1999, and in that time have garnered major critical acclaim; retained their credible, cult status; and developed a legion of devout fans 'dedicated to spreading the gospel of Iam Kloot'.
Its been an incredible couple of years for John with the band, with highlights including picking up a Mercury Music Nomination for Sky at Night and a number 10 entry into the UK Album Charts for this year's studio album, Let It All In.
Now John is taking a break to perform an exclusive set of intimate solo gigs at some of the country's best loved venues. Having been all over the world with the band these last couple of years, playing some of the most prestigious venues around, this is a chance for John to go back to his roots and entertain smaller audiences.
The tour is the only place where fans can buy John's solo record 'John Bramwell Live At the Trades' - a one hour recording of John's legendary gig at the Trades Club in summer 2013.
This promises to be a very special show for fans old and new.
johnbramwell.com

15 March, 4:55pm
Vue Bicester, Cineworld Didcot, The Regal Henley-on-Thames, Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford, Cineworld Witney
THE MET: LIVE IN HD MASSENET: WERTHER
The cast is led by Jonas Kaufmann, singing the title role of the brooding poet opposite Sophie Koch, his unattainable love, Charlotte.
Metopera.org/uk

16 March, 2:30pm - 5:15pm
Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford OX1 3SA
ANOTHER AFTERNOON OF GRAND OPERA
Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform.
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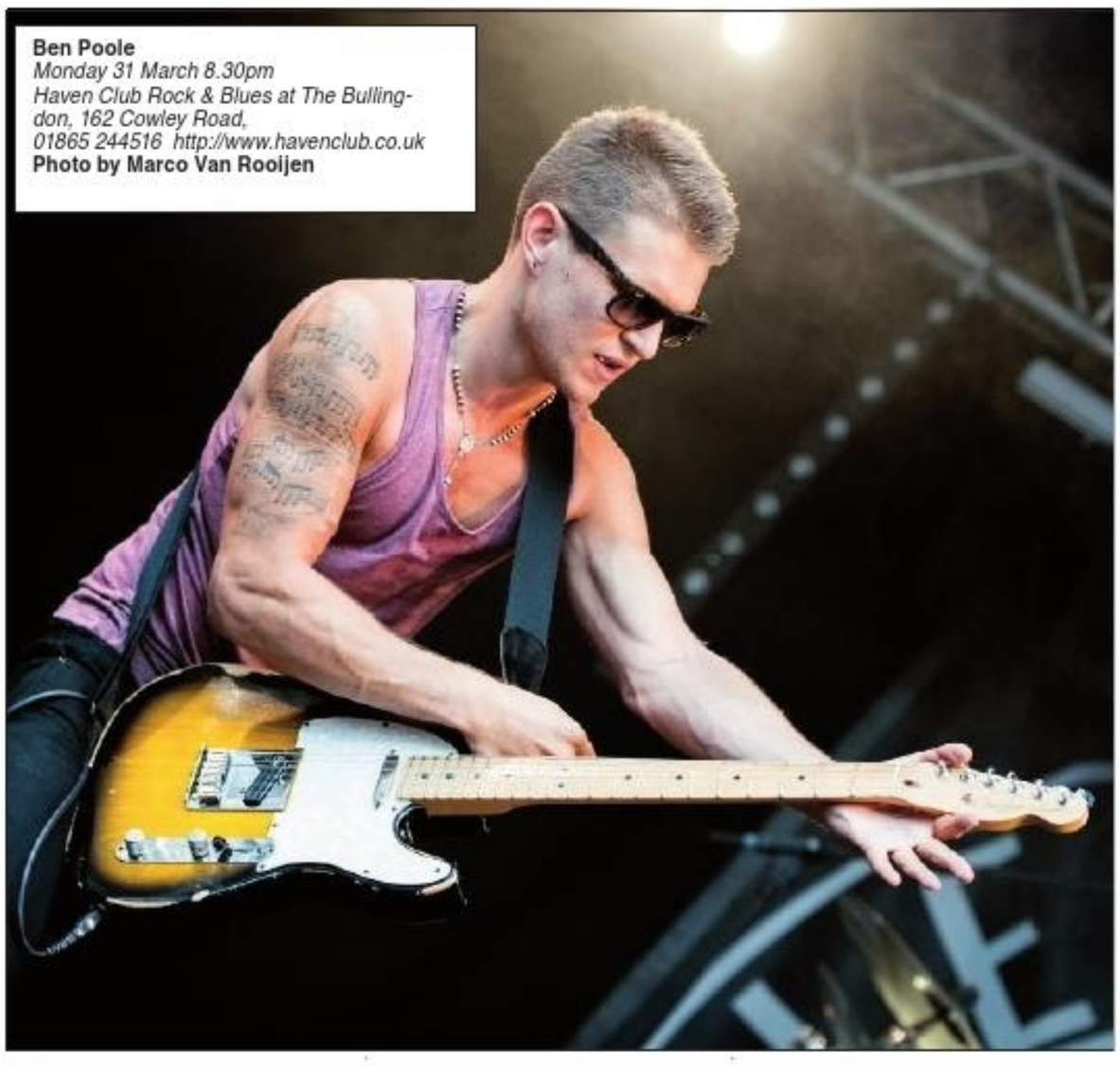
01865 735885/www.kenningtonchoir.org.uk

18 March - 22 March
A Streetcar Named Desire
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' ICONIC, PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING PLAY IS BROUGHT TO THE PLAYHOUSE STAGE BY OXFORD THEATRE GUILD.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

19 March - 20 March
Burton Taylor Studio
THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL



Ben Poole
Monday 31 March 8.30pm
Haven Club Rock & Blues at The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road,
01865 244516 http://www.havenclub.co.uk
Photo by Marco Van Rooijen

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The ultimate guide to planning your big day

When it comes to organising weddings, the devil's in the detail - and this includes the choice of music for your reception

Plan a great wedding playlist

By **Andy Welch**

THERE tend to be four focal points to any wedding - how the bride looked, the meal, the speeches and the evening do.

The first three in that list are usually seen as huge decisions, often made months, even a full year, before the event.

It's likely no detail has been left to chance when it comes to the favours, cars, bridesmaids' bouquets or the groom, best man and ushers' cravats matching the flower scheme.

If you're going to do that, don't skimp on the night-time.

Generally, things tend to be overlooked when it comes to the evening entertainment - how often do you hear the couple say, ``We've just got a DJ for the night do'', as if it needs no more attention than that?

But, as the part of the day that lasts the longest, don't make a mistake and under-plan. After all, the reception is what makes a wedding a party, a celebration - so you'll want to make sure it's memorable and that your guests have a great time.

Anyone with a basic grasp of Google can organise a bit of a knees-up, but simply booking a room and hoping for the best just won't cut it.

Think about what a night do is for...

First and foremost, there needs to be dancing - and lots of it.

Think about who is going to be there - likely an assortment of family of all ages, for starters. That means everything played needs to suitable for everyone, old and young.

Don't play anything that might cause old Aunt Enid at the back to have a funny turn. That'd be terrible but, more selfishly, you can't have someone stealing your wedding-day thunder like that.

There'll also be in attendance a load of friends, colleagues and people you've both picked up along the way. That means a complete and wide-ranging array of music tastes, so it's virtually impossible to try to cater for everyone.

The music policy needs to reflect the couple, most importantly - if you hate songs by the Rat Pack, normally a safe bet at weddings, then ban them. It's your day, after all, but within reason.

If you both love Slayer, Korn and Slipknot, brilliant, but don't expect anyone to dance to metal if they're not into it. The same tends to go for electronic dance music, miserablist indie and hip hop. Nothing against those genres, but there's a time and place to play them, and a wedding disco is neither.

For want of a better phrase, you're looking for cross-generational classics. And don't be po-faced about it, this is a wedding ding-dong, it shouldn't be a venture into minimalist Berlin club music. No one goes to a wedding to have their mind blown by a new style of music.

That said, it's not a night out down at Eighties nighclub Reflex, either. Cheese is all well and good, but, as with the dairy foodstuff, too much makes you bilious and have bad dreams.

Soul, particularly Motown, seems to be among a consensus at weddings. The older guests will remember it from first time around - nostalgia is a big deal at night dos, so use this to your advantage - while most of the younger attendees will have heard it via their parents.

Soul is everlasting, it's a genre that doesn't seem to have gone out of fashion, simultaneously sounding classic, without being dated.

Plus, love and happiness were the message of most of the best-known tunes. Perfect for a wedding, where romance is the flavour of the day.

You won't go far wrong with Aretha Franklin's Respect, Fontella Bass's RescueMe, Superstition by Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding's Hard To Handle or It Takes Two by Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston. That'll get the aunts and uncles up, the under-10s will dance to anything - and look cuter than anyone else doing so - and everyone else will follow suit.

On more of a Northern Soul tip, This Old Heart Of Mine by The Isley Brothers rarely fails to hit the spot, Do I Love You (Indeed I Do) by Frank Wilson, 25 Miles by Edwin Starr, Move On Up by Curtis Mayfield and The Sweetest Feeling by Jackie Wilson are all guaranteed to keep people up on their feet and away from the buffet.

Such is soul music's skill for disguising deep sadness behind a glorious melody and danceable beat, you might want to pay special attention to the lyrical content of whatever you play, however. Or at least hope the DJ takes notice of a song's message.

Eighties chart pop is another good bet - there you are with nostalgia again. Why not You Spin Me Round by Dead Or Alive, a bit of Madonna, perhaps Borderline or Holiday over Like A Virgin, Joan Jett's I Love Rock And Roll and Michael Jackson's Beat It. And is it really a wedding do if Dexy's Midnight Runners' Come On Eileen isn't played?

Depending on age and taste, a bit of Britpop never goes amiss, and if there are few naysayers there who won't let their hair down to Motown, they might at least sing along to a few Oasis, Blur or Pulp tracks.

A Spice Girls song might go down well, too, and carrying on a theme, Girls Aloud's Biology is a sure-fire way to get everyone up if they're not already, along with some Rihanna - careful on the lyrics, again - Britney Spears, Destiny's Child, Kylie and a bit of Take That.

If you're having a DJ, best to give them a list of 15-or-so songs that either must be played or that serve as a good indicator of what you want played.

Turn it up loud, and dance like only your closest friends, family and colleagues are watching.

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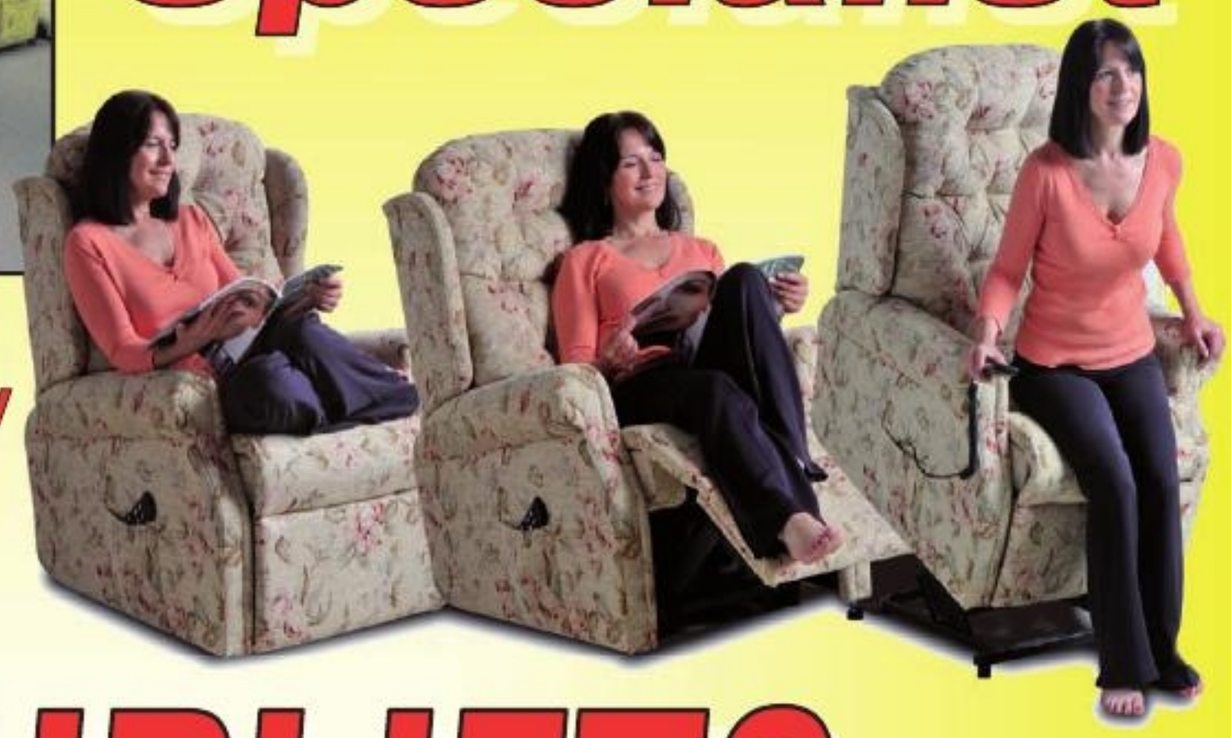

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	2		9	1		8	7	
8					3	1		
	4				2	9		5
1	6			3		2		
7			2		9			3
		4		7			9	8
3		2	8				6	
		5	6					9
	8	6		5	1		4	

	8						1	
	3	7		6		2	5	
		5	1		8	4		
			4		3			
	1						3	
			2		6			
		6	3		9	5		
	9	3		4		8	6	
	2						9	

9	4		8					
	1			4				
	3	2						
6		4	1			5		
3			9		8			2
		9			3	7		6
						3	1	
				7			6	
					5		9	7

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Indistinctly pronounced (7)
5 Frolics (5)
8 Correct (4)
9 Unaccompanied song (8)
10 Inward-looking (13)
13 Italian wine (4)
14 Besides (4)
17 Sin (13)
19 Undeviating (8)
20 Smooth out (4)
21 Recapitulate (3,2)
22 Settler (7)

Quick Clues Down

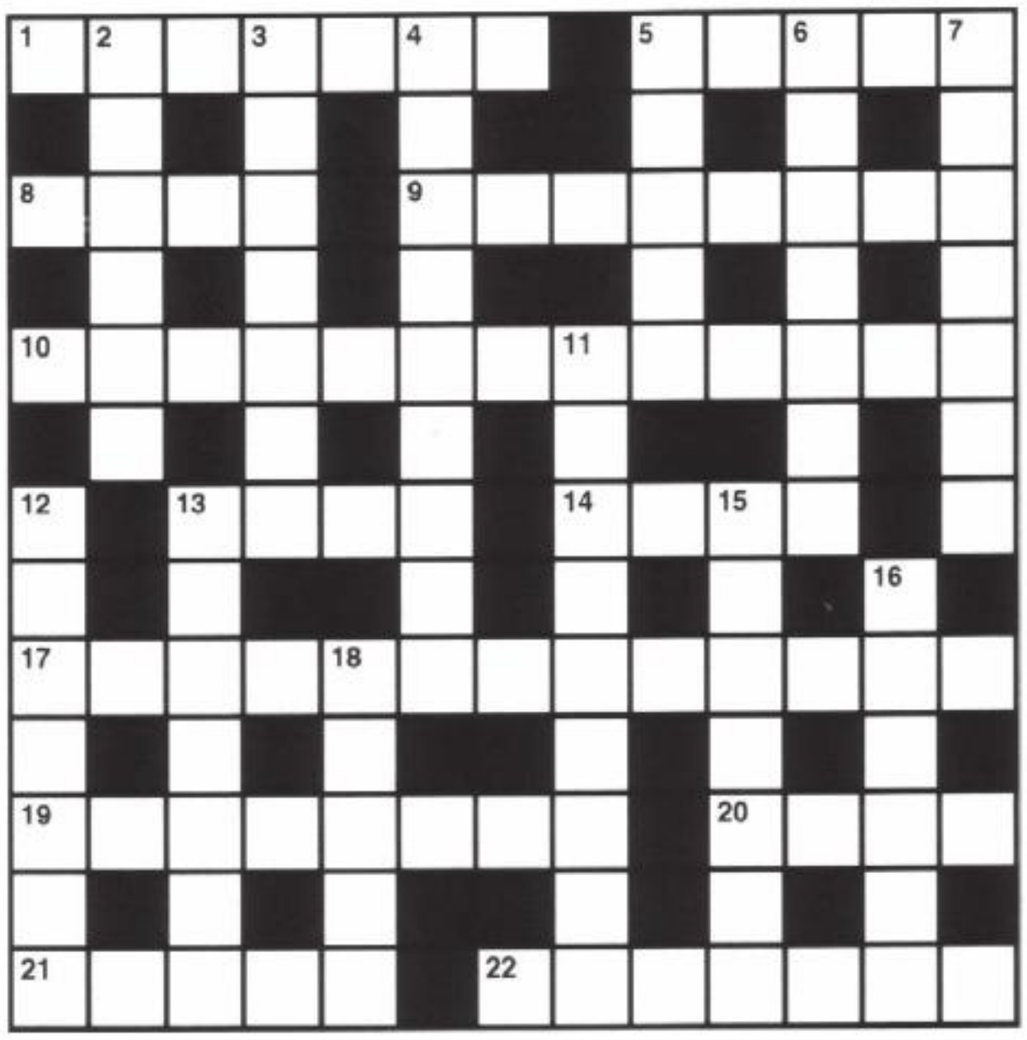
2 Cargo (6)
3 Answers (7)
4 Trapping (9)
5 Meant to be sung (5)
6 Syncopated music (7)
7 Able to pay debts (7)
11 Essential (9)
12 Bears witness (7)
13 Word arrangement (7)
15 Meeting period (7)
16 Gloomy (6)
18 Allow too little (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Tells by means of fashionable documents (7)
5 Confers underwear (5)
8 Let it stand as a sort of test (4)
9 Relax and do come in. How suggestive! (8)
10 Herr Doktor should be able to diagnose this complaint (6,7)
13 Time's up. Come out (4)
14 Forbidden poet? (4)
17 I am to consider skilful points. Quite incalculable (13)
19 Is a metal cup a Spanish ruler? (8)
20 With which to see the flag? (4)
21 Groups who sang out after the end of the drinking (5)
22 Pave the way to waking the snake stop (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Catch her being behind (6)
3 It's best to work it up, Mother (7)
4 Strangely animated about a letter - simply pickled, in fact (9)
5 Shakesperian character on the fiddle (5)
6 Very thick-skinned, she goes fifty-fifty with the Editor (7)
7 Please speak about misfits (7)
11 Disconcert me coming back to hinder a right fool (9)
12 Character can squeeze round it (7)
13 Account for being no longer obvious (7)
15 Irritate the out-of-work bishop with this nonsense (7)
16 It's pardonable when mercenary takes one in (6)
18 Proverbially they must when Satan is at the wheel (5)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

1	7	2	3	4	8	9	5	6
3	9	6	7	5	1	4	2	8
8	5	4	9	2	6	7	1	3
9	1	5	6	3	7	8	4	2
6	2	8	5	1	4	3	7	9
7	4	3	8	9	2	5	6	1
2	3	1	4	7	9	6	8	5
5	6	7	1	8	3	2	9	4
4	8	9	2	6	5	1	3	7

9	8	2	1	5	3	7	6	4
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
1	6	7	2	4	9	3	8	5
4	9	1	3	2	7	8	5	6
8	5	6	9	1	4	2	3	7
7	2	3	8	6	5	1	4	9
3	7	9	4	8	6	5	2	1
2	4	8	5	9	1	6	7	3
6	1	5	7	3	2	4	9	8

1	3	2	5	7	4	9	8	6
6	5	7	1	9	8	4	3	2
4	8	9	3	2	6	1	7	5
9	7	3	2	1	5	6	4	8
8	2	1	4	6	9	3	5	7
5	4	6	8	3	7	2	9	1
3	9	8	6	5	1	7	2	4
7	1	4	9	8	2	5	6	3
2	6	5	7	4	3	8	1	9

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Comprehends 9 Rub 10 Perimeter 11 Extol 13 Pinnace 14 Horace 19 Editor 18 Noisily 19 Lurid 20 Emulating 21 Tar 22 Delectation

Down: 2 Orb 3 Pupil 4 Europe 5 Ermined 6 Detractor 7 Freethinker 7 Freetraders 12 Turpitude 15 Climate 17 Typist 19 Light 21 Too

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Pocket money 9 Ear 10 Christian 11 Limps 13 Fir tree 14 Result 16 Better 18 Treacle 19 Side 20 Offensive 21 Ant 22 Alternately

Down: 2 Oar 3 Kicks 4 Tariff 5 Observe 6 Emigrated 7 Declaration 7 Endearments 12 Masterful 15 Licence 17 Legion 19 Spent 21 All

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Manufacturer unveils latest version of the highly-popular model

Focus on the new Ford

FORD Motor Company have revealed the advanced new Focus at this week's Geneva Show – the first European Ford to offer the voice-activated in-car connectivity system SYNC 2.

SYNC 2 is among a suite of life-enhancing new technologies making their European debut.

Ford's advanced in-car connectivity system features a high-resolution, eight-inch colour touch screen and advanced voice control for easier access to audio, navigation, climate control and compatible mobile phones. SYNC 2's navigation system also offers a split-screen display for the first time in Europe with detailed intersections, spoken street names, 3D highway junction and landmark views, plus the MICHELIN Guide and MICHELIN Green Guide.

SYNC features in more than eight million Ford vehicles since being launched in the U.S. in 2007. SYNC 2, the second generation of the system, is more intuitive and enables drivers to issue simpler "one-shot" navigation destinations. Pushing the voice control button and saying "I'm hungry" will bring up a list of local restaurants, for example.

REVIEW: FORD FOCUS
By **Andy Allans**

The new Ford Focus elevates the world's best-selling nameplate with a bolder, more emotive exterior design, a finely crafted, intuitive new interior, and major fuel economy improvements.

"Not satisfied with being number one, we wanted to blow people away with a stunning new version of the Focus that would build on this car's reputation for introducing advanced technology," said Stephen Odell, president of Ford of Europe, Middle East and Africa.

"New Focus will enable people to switch seamlessly between touch screen and voice commands, and also to control more in-car systems than ever before, while keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel."

The new Focus is the first Ford to offer Perpendicular Parking, a new hands-free parking technology that helps drivers reverse into spaces alongside other cars.

The current Focus introduced the parallel parking aid Active Park Assist that, at the push of a button, uses ultrasonic sensors to locate parking spaces and steer the vehicle while the driver controls the accelerator and brake.

The addition of two new sensors to the rear of the new Focus enables Perpendicular Parking to operate in the same way.

New Focus will also be offered with Ford's MyKey technology for the first time. MyKey enables owners to programme a key – usually for younger drivers – that restricts the top speed, reduces the maximum volume of the audio system, and can disable it altogether if driver and passengers are not using safety belts.

The improved Adaptive Front Lighting System adjusts the beams of the new Bi-Xenon HID headlamps to best suit the road layout. The system assesses the ambient light surrounding a vehicle, as well as objects in the road ahead and then adjusts the headlight beam angle and intensity to one of seven settings depending on the vehicle's speed, steering angle and distance to an object in front.

• The Ford Focus

At high speeds, such as on a motorway, the headlights are raised to project a longer, straighter beam for visibility further ahead; in towns where speeds are lower and street lighting more intense, the beam spreads out downwards for more intense illumination of the road immediately ahead. When cornering at lower speeds, the system projects a beam towards the side of the road to make cyclists and pedestrians more visible.

The new Focus takes the model's fun-to-drive personality up a level with enhanced handling and steering, and also offers significantly improved fuel efficiency on many versions thanks to new powertrain options.

The new Ford Focus will go on sale in Europe in the second half of 2014.

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- Electrically-operated door mirrors with integrated side indicators
- Front fog lights
- Manual air conditioning
- Quickclear heated windscreen
- Remote central locking with two flip keys

FOCUS ZETEC 5 DOOR 1.6 PETROL (105PS) **£14,995**

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- Electrically operated front windows with one-touch lowering on the driver's side
- Ford DAB Audio System with Bluetooth and USB connectivity
- Quickclear heated windscreen

Ford

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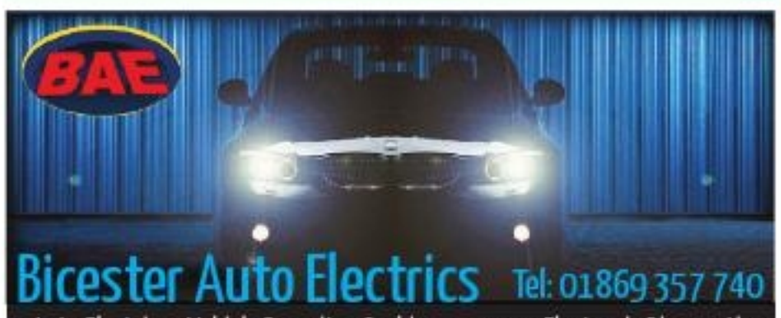

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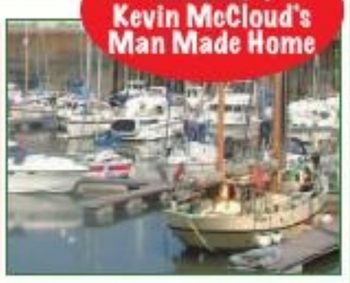

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Oxford Journal Sport

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U's skipper Wright calls for team to move on from Rochdale defeat

WE CAN'T DWELL ON THAT LOSS

• Oxford United captain Jake Wright (Picture by Steve Daniels)

OXFORD United captain Jake Wright is urging his team-mates not to dwell on last weekend's 3-0 defeat to Rochdale as the U's host fellow promotion chasers Burton this Saturday.

United are on a three-match winning run at home but have only taken one point from their last three games, which have all been away from the Kassam Stadium.

Last Saturday's defeat saw the U's slip to fifth in Sky Bet League Two but results were fairly kind to them with Scunthorpe and Fleetwood dropping points.

However, this weekend's opponents, Burton, jumped above United into fourth after a 2-1 win at home to Accrington.

Wright, who returned to United's starting line-up against Rochdale after being out injured for over a month, now wants last weekend's defeat put well and truly to bed.

"Win our two homes games, that's what we need to do now," Wright told the club.

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We've got to dust ourselves down and go again.

"I know people will be saying 'it's not good enough', and it's not, but we've got 12 games left so we can't dwell on it for too long."

Wright was honest in his assessment of United's defeat at Rochdale, which saw Scott Hogan score a hat-trick.

The 27-year-old added: "In the second half they came out and were better than us.

"I don't think we were good enough all over the pitch.

"They dominated the game and we deserved nothing out of it."

Meanwhile, chairman Ian Lenagan says the club is halfway through the process of appointing a new manager.

He told the club: "The process is one which means that we are looking for someone for two, three, four, five seasons. We can't panic into doing something."

More woe for City after loss to bottom side

OXFORD City suffered more misery on Tuesday night as they were beaten away at Skrill North basement side Workington.

Ben McKenna drove in from eight yards half-way through the first half to complete a bad few days for Mike Ford's men.

City had just suffered a three-point deduction, relegating them to second from bottom, for fielding an ineligible player.

Liam Malone had picked up five yellow cards, but played in the club's 2-0 victory over Worcester City on December 8.

City say the mistake was made due to an administrative error.

Meanwhile, Ford has boosted his squad with the double capture of defender Daniel Akubuine and winger Viv Soloman-Otabor.

Akubuine, a former Watford and Brighton trainee, joins from Conference Premier outfit Nuneaton Town.

And Soloman-Otabor has put pen to paper on a loan deal until the end of the season. He is currently on Birmingham City's books.

City have 24 points from 27 matches.

Browne makes a welcome return in big victory for Exiles

LONDON Welsh back row Daniel Browne said it was good to get some game time after a long injury absence, as the Exiles brushed past Ealing at the weekend.

Forward Browne was thrust straight back into Welsh action at the weekend after three months out with injury, as a first-half replacement for Richard Thorpe.

And he more than played his part in the 39-6 win, setting up Nick Scott for one of Welsh's five tries, after intercepting a pass in his own 22 and being faced with 80 metres of open grass to the line.

"I think I must have taken two steps and was looking around already," said Browne. "I was hoping they were a bit further away, but they seemed to be closing fairly quickly.

"I wanted to ease back into it," he added. "I was hoping Justin [Burnell] would look to the bench with 15-20 minutes to go. It feels like it's been almost a year since I played. I felt that rusty but it was good to get back out there."

The Exiles trailed by six points at one stage but fought back to lead 13-6 at the break thanks to Pete Browne's try, before crossing more four times in the second half through Nathan Vella, Seb Stegmann, Nick Scott and Tom May.

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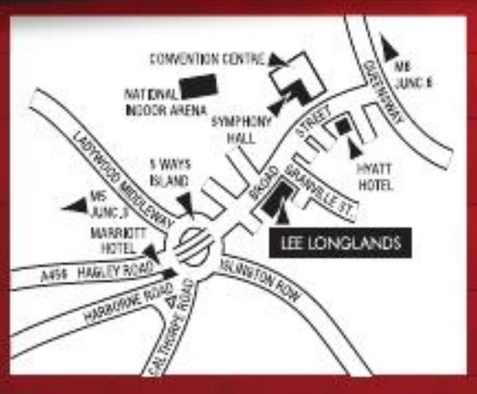

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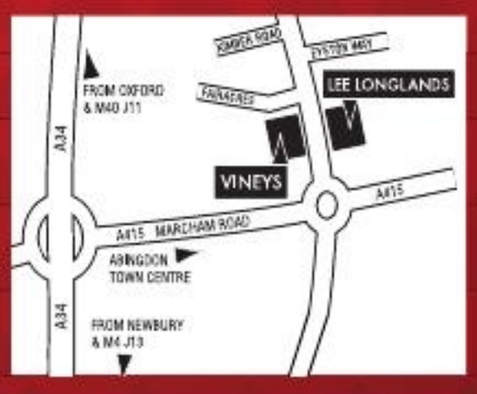

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